

## Testimony for March 4th hearing Re House bill 5408

3/3/14

To Whom It may Concern:

My name is Diane Hoffman, I reside at 190 Wilmot Rd. Hamden CT 06514

I am submitting this testimony for the March 4th hearing Re House bill 5408.

I am writing to strongly request that the following conditions be incorporated into this Bill.

1. A biannual review and evaluation of the utilities' plans, including public comment, to allow for adjustments as needed
2. Require utilities to obtain written consent from property owners for removal of trees on private property – this is critical and currently NOT required in the statute.
3. Improve the definitions of what is a hazardous tree and require each tree to be assessed by utilizing the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Basic Tree Risk Assessment Form or similar industry-wide system.
4. Require utilities to plant a replacement tree for every tree removed
5. Require utilities to grind stumps of removed trees
6. Require that utilities provide a direct phone line to a customer service representative assigned to handle questions on (and/or objections to) tree trimming and removal
7. Create greater accountability of tree service contractors through the requirement of a performance bond
8. Allow a Town or municipalities Tree Warden to have final say to a tree's fate, based not only on potential hazards, but also to the importance of or historical presence of any given tree in any given neighborhood.

I believe these conditions are necessary to ensure that the Bill that is approved protects the rights of private property owners and protects the environmental, societal and economic benefits trees provide to all of us

In order to accomplish those goals there must be accountability and a commitment to timely, reliable and accurate communication.

Thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

Diane Hoffman

Member - Executive Committee of The Hamden Alliance for Trees